

K-565

Circa 1870-1885

Ivingo

Near Locust Grove

Private

The frame farmhouse at Ivingo is one of the county's large vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival dwellings that date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century. With a main section 2-1/2 storeys tall and five bays wide, it was built in the most common form and plan (central hall with one room each side and a rear wing) employed by the prosperous farmers of the time and had what was becoming almost standard--a central gable. The main section was emphatically symmetrical and emphasized the central bay, both through a large, ornate main entry and through a central gable above. Service functions (kitchen and quarters for help) were relegated to a less important, less seen rear wing. This house said clearly to passers-by on the public road that here was a household of substance; the costly features of the building were placed where they would show. The main entry was massive, and the first-story facade windows are rare in the area for extending almost from floor to ceiling. The ends' two-storey bay windows were sure to be seen. This house may be what might be called a "peach house," resultant from the large amounts of money some farmers made from bumper peach crops during this period. The nation may have had its "gilded age," but Kent County also had its own period of "conspicuous consumption." This house is strikingly similar to K-587, Swan Meadow, located across the road to the southwest. They both may have been built by members of the Merritt family and within a few years of each other. Though on the other side of the road, the land on which Swan Meadow stands appears once to have been part of Ivingo, or the Merritt Farm.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Ivingo

and/or common

2. Location

street & number North side Rt. 213, .3 mile west of Rt. 444, southwest of Locust Grove not for publication

city, town Locust Grove X vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <u> </u> district | <u> </u> public | <u>X</u> occupied | <u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum |
| <u>X</u> building(s) | <u>X</u> private | <u> </u> unoccupied | <u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park |
| <u> </u> structure | <u> </u> both | <u> </u> work in progress | <u> </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence |
| <u> </u> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious |
| <u> </u> object | <u> </u> in process | <u> </u> yes: restricted | <u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific |
| | <u> </u> being considered | <u> </u> yes: unrestricted | <u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation |
| | <u>X</u> not applicable | <u>X</u> no | <u> </u> military <u> </u> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Eric Jacobsen

street & number 2714 Parkview Drive telephone no.:

city, town Riva, state and zip code MD 21140

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse 1150F OC 2794

street & number Cross Street 1010

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title NONE

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-565

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved | date of move _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The house at Ivingo is a large frame farmhouse with a main section 2-1/2 storeys tall and a lower, two-storey rear wing. The main section is five bays wide with main entry in the central bay. Above the entry on the third level is a central gable with a round-headed window. To each side, over the outside bays, is a gable-roofed dormer. At each end of the main section there is a central, two-storey bay-window projection. A five-bay porch spans the approach facade, under which on the first storey are almost porch-floor to porch-ceiling double-hung windows. Part of the lower sash is panelled. The plan of the main section is central hall and stair with one room on each side. The rear wing is three bays deep; there is an enclosed porch along its west side, within the L formed by the junction of main section and wing. The main section dates from about 1875 to 1890 and was built in a highly vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival style.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-565

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates Circa 1870–1885 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The farmhouse at Ivingo is one of the county's large vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival dwellings that date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It was built in the most common form and plan (central hall with one room each side and a rear wing) employed by the prosperous farmers of the time and had what was becoming almost standard--a central gable. The main section was emphatically symmetrical and emphasized the central bay, both through a large ornate main entry and through a central gable above. Service functions (kitchen and quarters for help) were relegated to a less important, less seen rear wing. This house said clearly to passers-by on the public road that here was a household of substance; the costly features of the building were placed where they would show. The main entry was massive, and the first-story facade windows are rare in the area for extending almost from floor to ceiling. The ends' two-storey bay windows were sure to be seen. This house may be what might be called a "peach house," resultant from the large amounts of money some farmers made from bumper peach crops during this period. The nation may have had its "gilded age," but Kent County also had its own period of "conspicuous consumption."

Survey No. K-565

Quadrangle scale _____

H | | | | | | | | | |

Five bays wide on the main, south facade, the main section has only central openings on each level of the gable ends--a three-part bay window on the first two levels and a single double-hung window with 2-over-2 lights on the third. The wing has three bays on both storeys of both long sides, with a central door on each side. There is only one north-end opening, a door, which may be later. The porch on the west side of the wing is now enclosed to be six bays wide and one deep. All roofs are gable except for the porch roof, which is shed.

There is a cellar under the whole wing and under part of the main section, under the dining room (east room) and hall only. The rear cellar has foundation walls of stone, possibly Port Deposit granite, c. 16-17" thick. The original entry to this cellar was in the west side's north bay, now under the porch. The huge cellar window openings under the wing have been closed, one on each side. An opening has been cut in the south end wall to the main-section cellar, which is built of brick. The common wall is double.

The exterior walls are covered with horizontal, lapped weatherboard with 5" exposure. On the main section there are double corner boards. On part of the main section there is a c. 7-1/2" band at the lower siding edge, at the foundation. It consists of two boards. The weatherboard of the main wall is continuous with that of the central gable; there is no pedimenting. The weatherboard courses of the wing do not align with the courses of the main section.

There is a chimney that rises through the ridge of the main section on each side of the central hall and with the adjacent rooms. The bricks are dark red and somewhat deteriorated. Both have a pair of two-course bands, the upper one corbelled over the lower. Each has a base below the level of the roof ridge. The wing has a chimney between the central and northern bays, through the roof ridge. This would have been for a dining room chimney, or less likely a kitchen chimney. A kitchen chimney more likely would have been located on the rear gable wall. This chimney's lower portion has been removed, above approximate door height on the first storey.

The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles except for the enclosed porch, which has standing-seam metal. The main section cornice is boxed, with an overhang of about 12-14". There are returns of about 16-18". The crown is a cyma recta, the bed a cyma reversa molding. The same trim is used on both sides and ends. The dormers are treated similarly, but with smaller moldings. The wing has a large bevel crown and no bed. The rear gable has plain flush verge boards. The overhang on the sides is ca. 10-12".

The main entry architrave is unusually large and bold. From the bottom of the sill to the top of the lintel trim it is 10'-9". The width is 7'-7-1/2". There is a six-light transom (one row of lights) with lights tall. They are of colored glass. The center pair has bright green glass, and the outer lights are deep, bright red. Each light measures about 12-1/2" wide x 25" high. The muntins are deep, about 1-1/2". The transom bar is 5" high with a boldly reeded center section that culminates in 2" bullseyes near each end. Edges
(continued)

are stop chamfered over the doors and over the sidelights. The architrave trim is plain and 4-3/8" wide with the head trim set out over the pilaster trim by about 1/2". There are three-light sidelights on each side. The top lights are red, the center green, and the lower ones clear, perhaps originally so for viewing. These lights are 7-1/2" wide by 16-3/4" high. Below the lights there is a vertical panel on each side. It is recessed and slightly raised with the same bold bolection molding as used on the doors. Double screen doors have been installed (and then removed), adding additional trim from which the doors were hung. The doors are double in a large opening: about 54" wide and 7'-6" tall. Each door has two recessed and slightly raised panels. The lower panel is nearly square and the upper is tall and round-headed. The bold, compound bolection molding is 2-1/2" wide overall. The knob is of embossed, cast metal but is not original. There are four secondary entries, into the center bay of the west side of the wing, through the enclosed porch; into the rear of the stair hall from the wing porch, where the door is four-panel with ogee-and-bevel molding; at the rear of the wing in the west bay, where there is an unbeaded board-and-batten door combined with a four-light window; and on the east side of the wing in the center bay. There is now no access to this door because kitchen cabinets and modern inside wall finishes cover it. The door, seen from the outside has four panels, the upper pair taller, with panel molding of ogee-and-bevel. The door trim backband is a flattened oval with fillets, 2" wide overall.

Most windows of the main section are double-hung with 2-over-2 lights and in various sizes and shapes. The first storey of the facade has rarely seen windows that extend from almost floor to ceiling. Like the main entry, they have plain trim and a slight dog-ear. The sills are double. The pairs of lights are very large and unequal. The top lights measure 37-1/2" x 13-5/8"; the lower lights are 51-3/8" high by the same width. Muntins are wide--1-1/2". Below the lights there is a pair of recessed and raised panels, with applied panel molding of fillet outside, a small bevel, and an inside bead. This is also used on the shutters. Second-storey shutters have movable louvers except in the central bay. The first-storey facade shutters are tall to match the windows and paneled. Now painted red, they have three vertical recessed panels of approximately equal height (about 36"). On the back side, the panels are plain and flush.

Wing windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights. The sills are bold and triple (main, outer sill is 3-1/2" high). They have the same trim as the opposite doors of the wing--a 2-1/8" inside fillet and backband of 2" flattened oval with fillets. The shutters have been removed from the wing.

There are two-storey bay windows at each end of the main section, centered. They have their own brick foundation. Each storey's bay window is three-part. The side windows are double-hung with 1-over-1 lights; they are narrower than the 2-over-2 center window. Below the windows are recessed panels. The bays have interior shutters.

On the interior there are a bold Victorian catalogue stair and catalogue mantels.

A house is not shown at the location of Ivingo on the 1860 Martent map, though one may have been present at the time, most likely consisting of the rear wing (perhaps as 1-1/2 storeys) of the present house, which is earlier and constructed separately from the front, main section. A house is located to the southwest on the same side of the road but not identified. Presumably this is the same site just north of the lane to Shrewsbury Church as that of the house shown on the 1877 atlas map of the Second District as belonging to S. A. Merritt. Why the owner was not designated is not known. Both buildings may initially have been located on the same farm, one perhaps intended to be a better, replacement main dwelling for the other. On the 1877 atlas Merritt is shown as the owner of a third building in the vicinity as well, one farther to the north on the east side of Shrewsbury Lane. In addition, he is shown as the owner of a cluster on the west side of the lower portion of the Shrewsbury Neck road. These may have been dwellings on the farm for black farm workers, for into the twentieth century there was a tiny black community located there.

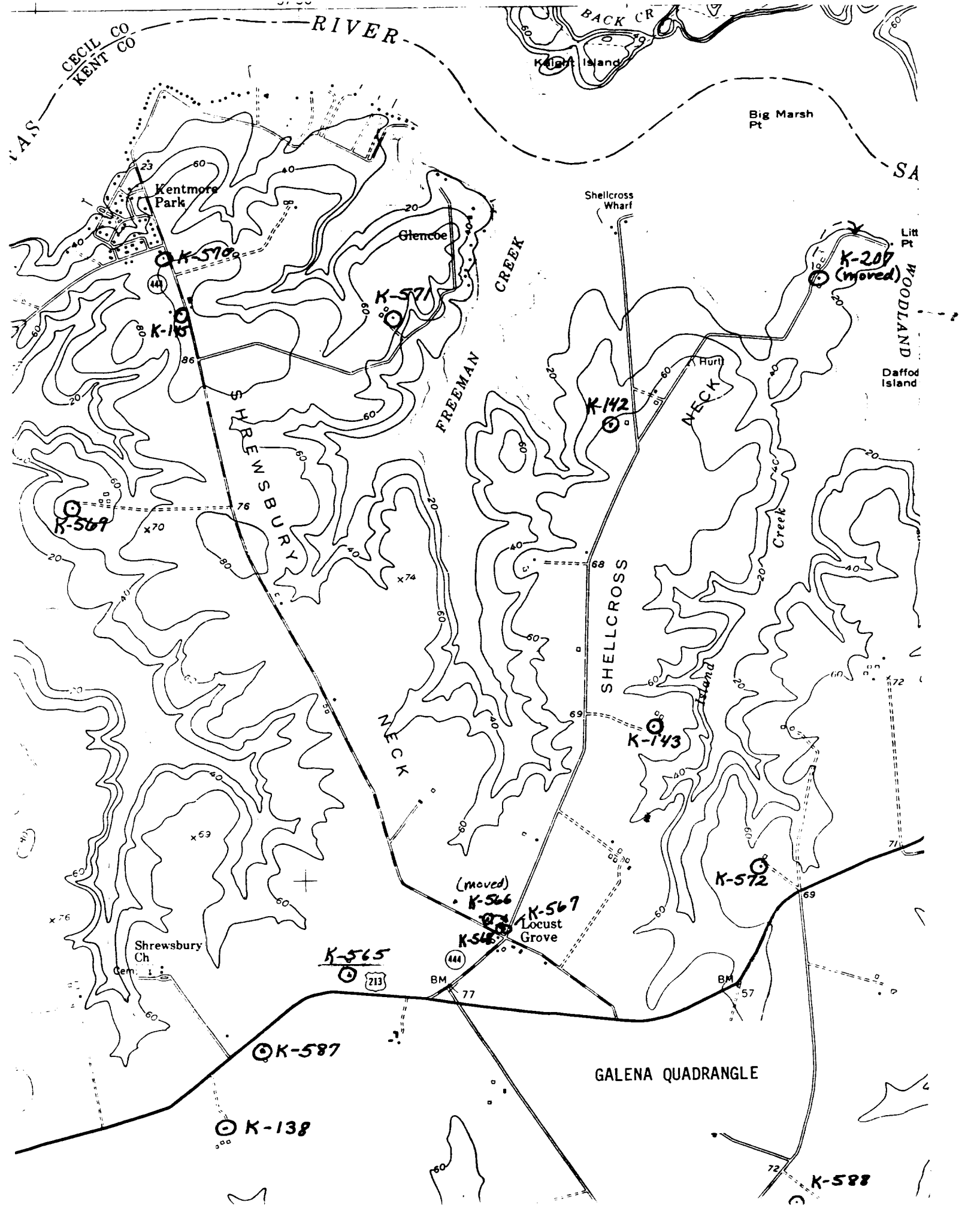
The main house now at Ivingo may indeed be a "peach house." After the Civil War numerous farmers in Kent County planted much of their acreage in peach trees (and pears as well). With bumper crops in some years, some became quite wealthy. Later, for various reasons, peaches declined and finally disappeared as a crop of importance, but there was a legacy of fine, new, often lavish houses left behind. Just as this was a "gilded age" elsewhere, it was to some extent in Kent County also, a period of conspicuous consumption. Builders of the larger houses of the period tended to put their money where it showed--into expensive main entry architraves, stairs, bay windows, roof trim, and the like.

According to Phebe Jacobsen of the Maryland State Archives, whose son owns Ivingo, the farm's title has not yet been completely researched, though she has offered some information about it. The farm, earlier known commonly as the Merritt Farm, now consists of two tracts, Ivingo and Standaway (or Stanaway), but probably including very little of Standaway. "Ivingo was patented in 1703 to Philip Burgin (or Burgan). By 1767 when the (then) owner John Morris Burgin died, a life interest went to his wife and then to his daughter Rebecca. The latter died, the widow remarried and estate rights went to James Burgin, brother of John, who sold Ivingo 9 September 1769 to William Merritt (Kent Land Records DD3: 215-216). . . . The 1769 purchase of Ivingo was for 210 acrs and includes 'houses, garden, orchard and other improvements.' In 1770 an Edward Holman and his wife, who was the widow of John Morris Burgan, sold parts of Ivingo and Stanaway to William Merritt. No amount of land is indicated in the deed, nor an improvements mentioned. For this reason I suspect that Ivingo was the plantation home of John M. Burgan. Relationship of Philip Burgin (or Burgan) to John and James is not clear. Philip mentions a son Sutton in his will. In any event, this must be worked out. What is clear is that there was already a dwelling of some kind there by 1767 and possibly earlier. . . . The 1787 Assessment says that William Merritt owned 115 acres of Ivingo, 41 acres of [Kent] Manor land, 84 acres of Scotts Folly and 17 acres of what appears to be 'Palmer's Hazard.' There is a 'good wooden dwelling on Ivingo and Scotts Folly common out houses,' the

(continued)

lands are located 9 miles from Chestertown and 'Forrest' is inserted above the location of Ivingo. The land is described as 'Midling Old Land' with '240 arable acres.' (Tax Assessment 1783, Kent County, Return of Land in 4th District, page 5.) Standaway is not listed in 1783 as belonging to Merritt. Scotts Folly is entered as being on the road to the town of Shrewsbury."

The farm has long been tenanted, though the house is rented separately from the cultivating rights.





/K-565-11A

K-565

Ivingo

Rt. 213, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/4/85

View to north



K-565

Ivingo

Rt. 213, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/4/85

View to west